

May 29.

MUCH INTEREST WAS SHOWN

Anti-Beam Trawling Hearing Was Not Finished Yesterday.

Stand Taken by Commissioner Field a Decided Surprise.

Beginning with motion pictures, models of beam trawls and specimens of fish, a description of the method of catching fish with beam and otter trawls was given the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries at Washington, yesterday, by Representative Gardner and representatives of the fishing interests of this city and Boston.

The committee is holding hearings on Representative Gardner's proposed legislation to abolish this method of fishing by prohibiting fish caught by steam trawls from being sold in American markets.

A great deal of interest was shown in the hearing. Beside the full membership of the committee, with the exception of Representative Hinds of Maine, who is kept at home by temporary illness, there were present nearly all of the Massachusetts delegation in the House, Mayor Fitzgerald, of Boston representatives of the United States Bureau of Fisheries and attorneys for companies engaged in beam trawling.

Moving Pictures Shown.

The motion pictures which were shown the committee were obtained by F. G. Robinson, secretary of the Boston committee. They were made in France and show the French beam trawlers at work. That they were French pictures was explained to the committee by Representative Gardner. He added that the method of beam trawling was the same in this country as in France and that the committee would get a fair idea from the pictures shown by Mr. Robinson of the work of the beam trawlers that go out of Boston.

The principal points that the Gloucester men called attention to in the pictures were that they showed how many small fish were taken up in the trawl, fish that died and were thrown overboard to be eaten by gulls, and the fact that the scales were scraped off the fish by the trawl, which made them unmarketable in American. The pictures were explained, as they were shown, by Representative Gardner and Capt. Carl C. Young of this city.

Gardner Opened Hearing.

At the conclusion of the exhibition of pictures the committee began hearing witnesses. In his opening statement Representative Gardner said that this fishing was analogous to a meth-

od of sponge fishing, which had been prohibited by the American Government several years ago.

"Greek sponge fishers came to the coast of Florida," said Mr. Gardner, "and began sponge fishing by methods which threatened to deplete the sponge supply. While this Government could not stop them when fishing outside the three-mile limit, it passed legislation that prevented the sale in American ports of sponges taken by the new method."

"Some years ago we did the same thing in the matter of the sale of Spring mackerel by ordering a closed season for five years. My bill prohibiting the sale of fish in American ports caught by steam-trawlers is analogous to the sponge and mackerel legislation I have spoken of."

Mr. Gardner then called the attention of the committee to the agitation against beam trawling in Canada. He said the matter had come before the Canadian Parliament and that the Parliament, he had been informed, had requested Ambassador Bryce to keep in close touch with the developments in this country.

"I have heard," said Mr. Gardner, "that Canadian Parliament has suggested that Mr. Bryce take steps looking toward cooperation between this country and Canada in this matter, but I have not been able to verify that report. The best I can learn is that the Canadian Cabinet has shown an interest in the matter and that Mr. Bryce has been requested to keep in touch with all moves we make."

Mr. Gardner told the committee that he would like to put on a number of witnesses. Representative Alexander, chairman of the committee, told him that the committee was ready to give him a full hearing.

New Yorker Opposed Bill.

H. Ralph Burton, of the firm of McLanahan & Burton of Washington, attorneys for the Heroine Fishing Company of New York, made a preliminary statement in opposition to the bill. He said that about three weeks ago J. Manuel Marshall, attorney for the Gloucester anti-beam trawling committee, had called on William F. Garcelon of Boston, attorney for the Bay State Fishing Company, operators of beam trawls, and suggested that both sides agree to drop the bill prohibiting the sale of fish caught by beam trawling and ask the committee to report Representative Gardner's resolution providing for an investigation of the beam trawling system by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. After consulting McLanahan & Burton said Mr. Garcelon agreed to Mr. Marshall's proposal and wrote Chairman Alexander of the agreement between counsel for the opposing sides. Later, Mr. Burton said, Mr. Marshall came to Mr. Garcelon again and told him that other opponents of supporters of the legislation proposed by Mr. Gardner had decided to go with the fight, so he would have to withdraw from his agreement. Mr. Gardner interrupted Mr. Burton with the statement that he, Mr. Gardner, was res-

ponsible for the failure of the agreement to drop his bill.

Mr. Burton started in to describe the various investigations on beam trawling made by the British authorities, but was checked by Mr. Alexander at Mr. Gardner's suggestion, Mr. Gardner saying that the matter being discussed by Mr. Burton was irrelevant at the time. Mr. Burton finished with the statement that the companies engaged in beam trawling courted an investigation by the Bureau of Fisheries.

The first witness put on the stand by Mr. Gardner was Mr. Marshall. He exhibited a model of a beam trawl and was engaged in explaining its workings to the committee when a recess was taken at noon.

He said that the otter trawling system would work the ruin of the Gloucester fishermen, would deplete the supply of fish and would result in the cry of vested interests in the fishing industry. He said the system kills off the small fish and that it is a question whether a supply sufficient to meet the demand would be available within a few years.

Dr. George W. Field, representing the Fish and Game Commission of Massachusetts, said the beam trawl did no harm to the bottom of the ocean. The pictures shown by Mr. Robinson he declared to be unfair, since they did not portray conditions that exist in the beam trawling industry in this country. Dr. Field told the committee that he had spent four days on a beam trawling vessel of the Bay State Fishing Company making an investigation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Scotch Authority Tells His Story.

Captain William Main, from Aberdeen, Scotland, put the blame for his inability to make a living any longer as a line fisherman in the North Sea off the Scottish coast upon the otter trawlers. For 28 years, or over since he was a lad of 16, he has been going out in his boat with hooks and lines and pulling in cod and haddock. He remembers, he told the committee,

when the haddock were so large in certain seasons of the year off the Scottish coast that they broke the lines.

But that was a good many years ago. And the reason that doesn't happen now, he said, is because otter trawlers have been put into use.

He remembers, too, when a good Scotchman could provide hot bread and ale and other necessities of life in good abundance with his work as a line fisherman. But he gave up his life occupation a few weeks ago and has come to America to find other kind of work that will enable him to make a living. The fish are not as plentiful nor as large in the North Sea as they were when he took up the business of fishing with hooks and lines, and he told the committee he thought the otter trawlers were largely to blame.

He worked on an otter trawler in the North Sea for one week and he told of the basketfuls of small fish that were thrown overboard after each haul of the net.

"Was there talk of the numbers of the small fish that were thrown overboard?" he was asked.

"It was such a common occurrence that the men on the boat didn't talk about it," he replied. So many of the small fish were caught sometimes, he said, they were used as fertilizer.

Captain H. Dexter Malone, one of the last witnesses of the afternoon, studied steam trawling in the North Sea and was for the first six months of 1906 in command of an otter trawler that sailed from Boston. All questions asked him were directed to establishing the large number of small fish caught in the nets of the steam trawlers and thrown over dead, in an endeavor to show how damaging steam trawling was to the supply of fish.

While he was on the otter trawler, he said, about one third of the fish caught in the nets were too small to be taken to market and were thrown back into the sea.

"Were those fish dead or alive?" "Most of them were dead," was the answer.

In response to a question from Representative Gardner, he declared that the making of the holes in the net larger so that the smaller fish could get through them would not help matters. The large fish soon fill up the end of the net, he pointed out, and then both large and small fish are caught.

E. A. Malone, who had also worked on an otter trawler, said that about one-third of the fish caught by it were under two and a half pounds and were thrown overboard.

While he was on the stand some members of the committee dug up some statistics of the North Sea fishing, showing that about 3,000,000 hundredweight of fish taken from the North Sea were caught by steam trawlers and only about 36,000 hundredweight by line fishing. He was asked if he thought the market could be supplied if trawling was stopped. The witness would not express an opinion and promises were made by the opponent of the other trawlers to take up that question later.

Capt. Jerome McDonald, E. Archer Bradley and Richard W. Freeman of the local committee, and Capt. Watson of the Boston committee, returned home this morning. They reported that the hearing may be concluded today, although it is possible that it will be necessary to carry it over tomorrow before the case is finished.

May 29.

JUST AN EVEN DOZEN ARRIVALS.

T WHARF PRICES HOLD UP WELL WITH A HOLIDAY COMING TOMORROW.

Just an even dozen of arrivals were at T wharf, Boston, this morning when the gong sounded, mostly small shore fares, although prices held up well and trade was fairly good.

Sch. Josie and Phoebe from off shore had 40,000 pounds and the steam trawlers Swell and Crest, 43,000 and 33,000 pounds each, which are the largest arrivals of the morning.

Sch. Mildred Robinson arrived yesterday with a big fare, having 103,000 pounds of cod, 7000 pounds of hake, and 5000 pounds of halibut. Part of the trip was disposed of at the dock, after which the craft sailed for this port.

Haddock sold at \$2.50 to \$4, large cod, \$5 to \$5.75, market cod, \$1.50 to \$2.50, and hake, \$1.50.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are:

Sch. Josie and Phoebe, 35,000 haddock, 3600 cod, 500 pollock.

Sch. Mary, 20,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 6000 hake, 500 pollock.

Sch. W. M. Goodspeed, 20,000 haddock, 13,000 cod, 8000 hake.

Sch. Wm. A. Morse, 16,000 haddock, 2500 cod.

Sch. Annie Perry, 3000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 3500 hake.

Str. Swell, 42,000 haddock, 1700 cod.

Str. Crest, 31,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Mina Swim, 19,000 cod.

Sch. Thomas J. Carroll, 20,000 cod.

Sch. Appomattox, 18,000 cod.

Sch. Esther Gray, 5000 cod, 2000 halibut.

Sch. Georgiana, 4500 cod.

Haddock, \$2.50 to \$4; large cod, \$5 to \$5.75; market cod, \$1.50 to \$2.50; hake, \$1.50; halibut, 9¢.

May 31.

BOOTHS IN AT NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Newfoundland government has approved the contract with the Booth Fisheries Company of Chicago for the establishment of plants in that province, the plan being to form a separate concern with \$1,000,000 capital, to be owned by the Chicago Company.

Sardine Factories to Open Late.

The sardine factories in the vicinity of Boothbay Harbor are not expected to open until the late summer or early fall. This is not caused so much by the fact that the fish are scarce as that there was an overproduction a year ago. None of the factories have been opened this year.

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Halibut Sale.

The halibut fare of sch. Elk sold to the American Halibut Co. at 10c a pound for white and 7c a pound for grays.

May 31.

OTTER TRAWLING INVESTIGATION

Probable Result of Hearings at Washington This Week.

Work Will be Done by Bureau of Fisheries Experts.

If Congress acts favorably upon a resolution unanimously reported Wednesday by the House committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, the Bureau of Fisheries will make a thorough investigation of the system of catching fish with otter trawls.

The resolution was introduced in the House by Representative Gardner and the decision of the committee to report the resolution came as the result of an agreement reached Wednesday afternoon by Representative Gardner and William F. Garcelon and Junius T. Auerbach, attorneys for the Bay State Fishing company, and McLanahan & Burton, attorneys for the Heroine Fishing company of New York, who appeared in opposition to the legislation proposed by Mr. Gardner to prohibit the sale of fish caught by otter trawls.

The resolution provides that the Bureau of Fisheries shall report to Congress in December.

Will Ask Unanimous Consent.

In order to facilitate the progress of the resolution Chairman Alexander of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries obtained a promise from Speaker Clark to recognize him at an early date in order that he may ask unanimous consent for the consideration of the resolution.

One obstacle that will have to be overcome is the question of money. Representative Gardner was informed by the Bureau of Fisheries Wednesday that the investigation will cost about \$5000. The economy policy of the House stands in the way of that phase of the question, so the chances are that Mr. Gardner's resolution will contain no request for an appropriation. He will let it go to the Senate without a provision for an appropriation and Senator Lodge will offer it in the Senate as an amendment to one of the regular appropriation bills in the hope that the House conferees on whatever appropriation measure it is tacked onto will agree to it.

Before adjourning Wednesday the committee gave permission to the attorneys for the opposing sides to file briefs in the case within 30 days. This was in lieu of hearing a number of witnesses who were here, but who had not been called.

Previous to Congressman Gardner and the attorneys coming to the agreement above mentioned, the House committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries continued its hearing early Wednesday on the bill introduced by Representative Gardner to prohibit the sale in American markets of fish caught by otter trawls. The principal witness was James B. Connolly, the writer. Mr. Connolly described trips he had taken to the North Sea for magazines, in which, he said, he had studied the workings of the otter trawls.

The principal harm done by the otter trawl, Mr. Connolly said, was its destruction of vegetation on the bottom of the ocean. He said also that it took up a large number of small fish, which died before they could be thrown back into the water.

Capt. Dexter Malone, Frank Carroll and William T. Thompson and Joshua W. Stanley of Gloucester were also heard by the committee. Their testimony was in corroboration of that given by Mr. Connolly regarding the destructiveness of the otter trawl. Representative Gardner and William F. Garcelon both cross-questioned witnesses.

The local delegates arrived from Washington yesterday, and express much satisfaction over their visit and the result of the hearing.

May 31.

SCH. ASPINET HAS BIG FARE.

IN AT T WHARF THIS MORNING WITH 125,000 POUNDS OF COD.

It was a quiet morning for fish trade at T wharf today, after the holiday, nine arrivals being reported at the dock since Wednesday's report.

The largest fare for several days is that of sch. Aspinet, the craft having 125,000 pounds of codfish in addition to 3500 weight of haddock and 700 pounds of halibut. Sch. Squanto is also in with a nice trip, her skipper hauling for 70,000 pounds.

Haddock sold at \$1.25 to \$2 a hundred weight, large cod, \$2.25 to \$3; market cod, \$1.75; hake, \$1.10 and halibut, 11 cents a pound for white and 8 cents a pound for grays.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are.

Steamer Spray, 24,000 haddock, 800 cod.

Sch. Yankee, 15,000 haddock, 9000 cod.

Sch. Oliva Sears, 1500 cod.

Sch. Mary B. Greer, 12,000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Aspinet, 3500 haddock, 125,000 cod, 700 halibut.

Sch. Squanto, 10,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 25,000 hake, 25,000 cusk, 1200 halibut.

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 14,000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith, 10,000 haddock, 1700 cod.

Sch. Good Luck, 1800 haddock, 17,000 cod.

Haddock, \$1.25 to \$2 per cwt.; large cod, \$2.25 to \$3; market cod, \$1.75; halibut, \$2.25 to \$3; market cod, \$1.75; hake, \$1.10; halibut, 11 cents for white and 8 cents for gray.

May 31.

BOUNDARY FISHERIES.

Another Attempt of Canada and United States to Make Treaty.

Another effort is to be made to settle the disputed questions regarding regulation of fisheries in the boundary waters between the United States and Canada says a Washington despatch.

Job Hedges of New York, recently appointed a member of the International fisheries commission, representing the United States, will confer soon with Edward E. Prince, Canadian member of the commission. They will endeavor to reach some agreement upon the regulations which were held up to be considered for amendment. It is believed they will be able to agree, as none of the differences of opinion are said to be sufficiently serious as to cause a deadlock. When they have reached some conclusion regarding the disputed regulations the commissioners will submit a report, and congress will be asked to enact legislation giving the report authority of law.

Congress has thus far acted on none of the regulations for fisheries in the boundary waters drawn up by the commission in accordance with the terms of the treaty by which that body was established. It has been explained that the delay is caused by the fact that a number of the proposed regulations were held out for discussion as to amendments. To save confusion it was decided it would be best to postpone legislation on the whole subject until the commission should itself agree on all proposed regulations.

State department officials have recently conferred with Mr. Hazen minister of marine and fisheries for Canada and are convinced that Canada will not withdraw from the treaty because of the delay.

May 31.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Cavalier passed Mulgrave last Tuesday, bound north.

Sch. Victor arrived at Liverpool, Tuesday and cleared for fishing.

Schs. Margaret and A. Platt Andrew arrived at Canso last Tuesday, the former with 75,000 pounds of codfish.

Sch. Colonial sailed from Canso on Tuesday last.

Sch. Francis S. Gureby arrived at Halifax Tuesday.

Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Monitor was at Portland yesterday with 25,000 pounds of halibut and 25,000 pounds of salt cod. Sch. Claudia is there today with 8000 pounds of halibut.

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LOAD OF TREATY COAST CODFISH.

SCH. GLADSTONE ALSO BRINGS RIGGING, ETC., OF LOST SCH. COLONIAL.

With a fare of 275,000 pounds of salt cod, sch. Gladstone, formerly one of the Wharff fleet of Provincetown, purchased by the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company arrived here this morning from Rose Blanche on the New foundland treaty coast.

Capt. McDonald also brought home the blocks, rigging, gear and appurtenances saved from the sch. Colonial, lost, last year, which have been stored at Burgeo. On her way into Burgeo, the Gladstone mis-stayed and went aground, but later floated again, the only damage being to her shoe.

Other arrivals are sch. Elk, Capt. Charles Colson, from Quero, with 15,000 pounds of halibut, 15,000 pounds of salt cod, and 10,000 pounds of fresh cod, and sch. Hattie A. Heckman from salt drifting with 35,000 pounds of salt cod.

Wednesday afternoon, steamer Dorcas arrived from pollock seining with 18,000 pounds of fresh pollock on board.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Elk, Quero, 15,000 lbs. halibut, 15,000 lbs. salt cod, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Hattie A. Heckman, salt drifting, 35,000 lbs. salt cod.

Steamer Dorcas, pollock seining, 18,000 lbs. pollock.

Steamer Prince Olaf, gill netting, 1600 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Hope, gill netting, 1800 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Gladstone, Rose Blanche, N. F., 275,000 lbs. salt cod.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Volant, salt drifting.

Sch. Kineo, halibuting.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.87 1-2; snappers, \$2.00.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.12 1/2 per cwt.; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$2.50.

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$3.25; mediums, \$2.87 1-2; snappers, \$2.00.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.12 1/2; mediums, \$3.50.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.25.

Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.

Hake, \$1.25.

Fresh Fish.

Haddock, 70c per cwt.

Peak and Cape North cod, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2; mediums, \$1.65; snappers, 75c.

All codfish not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, 70c.

Cusk, large, \$1.30; medium, \$1.00; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock, 80c; round, 70c.

Bank halibut, 10c per lb. for white, and 7c per lb. for gray.

Hake sounds, \$3.80 per cwt.

May 31.

NO GOOD NEWS FROM SEINERS.

No news has been received from Cape Shore seining fleet that is of an encouraging nature, although about 200 barrels of fish were taken by the boats of Yarmouth yesterday and sailed.

Advices received at T wharf Wednesday stated that 2000 mackerel were taken Wednesday forenoon from a trawl at Canso, N. S., and that several of the weirs nearby had fish. It is probable that considerable mackerel from the Provinces will reach Boston by the end of this week.

The Yarmouth steamer brought 190 barrels of fresh mackerel to Boston yesterday.

June 1.

TWO DAYS IN GRASP OF ARCTIC ICE.

Thrilling Experience of Sch. Gladstone on St. Peter's Bank.

Great Ice Hills Scraped Craft and Lifted Anchor off Bow.

Caught in heavy drift Arctic ice on St. Peter's Bank, sch. Gladstone which arrived here yesterday from Rose Blanche, N. F., with a cargo of salt cod, had a narrow escape from destruction on her way down to the treaty coast of Newfoundland and that she was not sent to her doom, seems a miracle.

The Gladstone, formerly one of the P. A. Whorff fleet of Provincetown, but purchased last winter by the Gorton-Pew Fisheries company left here the middle of April for Newfoundland in command of Capt. James McDonald. Capt. McDonald was unable to take the Scattarie passage at that time of the year, so headed her off across St. Peter's bank.

Caught In Big Ice Field.

On the fourth night out, Capt. McDonald arrived on St. Peter's and he gave orders to keep a sharp lookout for ice. None was seen that morning, and the craft was hove to in a strong wind. The sea about them was perfectly clear of ice at nightfall but when morning came Capt. McDonald and his men could hardly believe their eyes. For several miles around, nothing but a vast field of ice could be seen and the vessel was hemmed in on all sides.

The ice was from 18 to 24 feet in depth, while the tops of some of the mammoth cakes protruded out of water nearly to the lantern boards. Capt. McDonald realized fully the peril he

was in and all hands prepared to meet any emergency that might arise. As the vessel lay to, the ice closed in around them and cake after cake drifted down upon them, threatening to crush the craft beneath its heavy weight. So large were some of them, that they resembled miniature icebergs, and came so close that they actually lifted the anchor from the bow as they scraped along the side of the vessel.

Got the Dories Ready.

The crew were ordered to get their dories ready for launching, in case of necessity, and ample stores and provisions were put aboard. Others of the crew engaged in making fenders out of rope and these were put over the side, to lessen the force of the impact, when the heavy cakes of ice struck the sides.

For nearly two days Capt. McDonald and his crew kept an incessant watch, dodging the ice, while the fenders did effective service in saving the craft. The next night the vessel worked clear as the ice was carried out to the sea but none too soon, however, for a short time afterwards a heavy fog shut in that completely obscured them from all around.

Capt. McDonald and his men were mighty thankful to escape as they did, for there is no telling what their fate might have been had they been left to grope their way through the ice in the fog, either of which alone is bad enough in that region.

The craft reached Rose Blanche without further incident and secured her cargo, which was brought here.

New Cuban Tank Fishing Schooner.

The Cuban fishing sch. Neptune, recently completed at Green's yard, Chelsea, is ready to sail from Boston for Havana, in command of Capt. Carvello. The vessel has formally cleared at the Custom House and the final preparations for leaving port have been made. The Neptune will engage in the red snapper fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico, carrying her fish to Havana alive by means of a big tank which has been constructed in the hold.

Raymah Started Again.

The British sch. Raymah, recently sold by the Atlantic Maritime company to Nova Scotia parties, started out again Wednesday afternoon, after making slight repairs as the result of her accident last Monday when she ran aground on a mud bank in Boston Harbor. The craft will be used in the transatlantic fish trade.